



## BELINDA GORDON SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

Early language and literacy: Identification,

development and support

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2/4/18

Dear Parent,

I am a local Speech Pathologist with almost 30 years experience. After initially working in the country, and adult and paediatric hospitals, much of my career has been working in the private sector and disability, and over recent years has progressed to consulting within primary schools in our region. I have extensive experience in working with early school age children, and am passionate about facilitating the development between oral language, early literacy and academic success. I have 3 grown children myself, and am happiest when working with young children.

In May 2018, at the request of your school, I will be seeing your child for a speech and language screening assessment. The aim of this assessment is to identify your child's strengths and/or weaknesses in oral language/communication. This will be done using both formal and informal tests, which provide a picture of your child's ability for their age. The skills examined will include:

- \* speech (articulation of speech sounds),
- \* vocabulary and concept knowledge,
- \* ability to understand questions and follow instructions,
- \* sentence grammar,
- \* ability to re-tell a simple story (recalling and providing key information, sentence length and complexity), and
- \* pre-literacy phonic awareness skills.

The results of the screening are then used to:

- \* facilitate referrals to other Speech Pathology treatment services where indicated, and
- \* to highlight the children's strengths and weaknesses for individualized education planning within the classroom, as appropriate.

If indicated, home practice advice and suggestions for any minor areas of concern will also be provided. Parent meetings may be possible, on-request.

A copy of the screening assessment report will be provided to you before the end of term 2, or earlier if your child is found to have significant difficulties.

I look forward to meeting your child, either on a Monday or Friday, in term 2.

Kind regards,

Belinda Gordon  
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

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**DARLINGTON**

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